

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK



MASTER SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER – COURSE NAME
SSCI 250 – Exploring Diversity & Faith

CIP Code: 45.01

For assistance determining CIP Code, please refer to this webpage

<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/browse.aspx?v=55>

or reach out to Sarah Todd at todds@canton.edu

Created by: Christina M. Leshko

Updated by: Christina M. Leshko

School of Business and Liberal Arts

Department: Social Sciences

Semester/Year: Fall 2023

- A. TITLE: Exploring Diversity & Faith
- B. COURSE NUMBER: SSCI 250
- C. CREDIT HOURS: (Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial, Activity)

Credit Hours: 3
 # Lecture Hours: 3 per week
 # Lab Hours: 0 per week
 Other: per week

Course Length: 15 Weeks

- D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE: Yes No
- E. GER CATEGORY: None: Yes: GER
If course satisfies more than one: GER
- F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: Fall Spring Fall & Spring

G. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides the opportunity to explore diverse perspectives through the lens of religion and spirituality. Using a sociological theoretical framework to center our exploration, we will consider the ways in which religion shapes social identities, focusing on race and ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality. We will examine the role that religious beliefs have in shaping relationships with power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity, both nationally and globally. Students will critically examine how faith traditions of both the ancient and modern world shape our shared reality.

- H. PRE-REQUISITES: None Yes If yes, list below:

CO-REQUISITES: None Yes If yes, list below:

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: (*see key below*)

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<u>Course Student Learning Outcome</u> <u>[SLO]</u>	<u>Program Student</u> <u>Learning</u> <u>Outcome</u> <u>[PSLO]</u>	<u>GER</u> <u>[If</u> <u>Applicable]</u>	<u>ISLO & SUBSETS</u>

Describe the roles and essential characteristics of religion in society from a sociological perspective.			4-Soc Respons ISLO ISLO	IK Subsets Subsets Subsets
Assess the ways religion contributes to the development of individual and group identities connected to race and ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality.		GER 3:1	4-Soc Respons ISLO ISLO	IK Subsets Subsets Subsets
Demonstrate an awareness of religious conflicts for freedom and autonomy in the modern world.		GER 3:3	4-Soc Respons ISLO ISLO	IK Subsets Subsets Subsets
Examine the role of religion as a social institution both permeated by and preserving of systems of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity.		GER 3: 2	4-Soc Respons ISLO ISLO	ER Subsets Subsets Subsets
Analyze religion as a conduit for moral principles and a locus of social change and social justice.		GER 3:3	4-Soc Respons ISLO ISLO	ER Subsets Subsets Subsets
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KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA] , Inquiry & Analysis [IA] , Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills

	<i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

*Include program objectives if applicable. Please consult with Program Coordinator

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes No

If YES, select one or more of the following categories:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom/Lab | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Engagement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internship | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Works/Senior Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Placement | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practicum | <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service Learning | (program, class, project) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | |

K. **TEXTS:**

OER materials posted throughout the course.

L. **REFERENCES:**

Bellah, Robert. 1964. "Religious Evolution," *American Sociological Review* 29:358-374.

Berger, Peter L. *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion* (1967). Anchor Books.

Chaves, Mark and Phil Gorski. 2001. "Religious Pluralism and Religious Participation." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 27: 261-281.

Cipriani, Roberto. "The New Sociology of Religion." *Encyclopedia* 1.3 (2021): 822–830. Web.

Clarke, Peter B. (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*, Oxford Handbooks in Religion and Theology, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 525–544.

Dane, P. (2001). The varieties of religious autonomy. *Church Autonomy: A Comparative Survey*, 117.

Darwin, Helana. "Navigating the Religious Gender Binary." *Sociology of religion* 81.2 (2020): 185–205. Web.

Durkheim, Emile. 1995 [1915]. Karen Fields, translator. *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. Free Press.

Jakelic, Slavica. 2010. *Collectivistic Religions: Religion, Choice, and Identity in Late Modernity*. Burlington: Ashgate Publishing Company.

Juergensmeyer, Mark. "Thinking Sociologically About Religion and Violence: The Case of ISIS." *Sociology of religion* 79.1 (2018): 20–34.

Nynäs, Peter et al. *The Diversity of Worldviews Among Young Adults: Contemporary (Non)Religiosity and Spirituality Through the Lens of an International Mixed Method Study*. Cham: Springer International Publishing AG, 2022. Print.

Weber, Max. "The Social Psychology of the World Religions," "The Protestant Sects and the Spirit of Capitalism," and "Religious Rejections of the World and Their Direction." In Gerth and Mills (eds.). 1946. From Max Weber. Oxford. Pp. 267-359.

Woodhead, Linda. 2001. "Feminism and the Sociology of Religion: From Gender-blindness to Gendered Difference." In Richard K. Fenn, ed., *The Blackwell Companion to Sociology of Religion*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

M. EQUIPMENT: None Needed:

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Quizzes, Discussion Boards, Assignments, Journal Entries, Projects

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Foundations in Sociology of Religion

- A. Core Concepts
- B. Theoretical Perspectives
 - 1. Role of religion in society
 - 2. Classification systems
 - 3. Criticisms
 - 4. Disciplinary differences
- C. Methodological Approaches
- D. Structures

II. Essentials of World Religions

- A. Major Religions
- B. Minor Religions
- C. Ethnic Religions
- D. New Religions Movements

III. Religion & Social Identity

- A. Religious Identification
- B. Age
- C. Race & Ethnicity
- D. Class Stratification

- E. Gender
- F. Sexuality

IV. Religious Supremacy

- A. Power & Authority
- B. Rights, Autonomy, & Religious Freedom

V. Religion & Other Institutions

- A. Government/Law
- B. Family
- C. Marriage
- D. Science
- E. Medicine/Health
- F. Education

VI. Religion & Social Justice

- A. Moral Philosophies
 - 1. Equality
 - 2. Freedom/Liberation
 - 3. Criminality
- B. Social Movements

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None Yes

	Assessment
<p>GER 3 Learning Objective</p> <p>Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of individual and group identity involving race, class, and gender;</p>	<p>Assignment: Fact Sheet w/ Peer Review Create a one-page fact sheet focused on: any ethnic religion</p> <p>Factsheets are overviews of a topic that highlight key information using concise, simple language. Your fact sheet should have a minimum of 15 facts or bullet points with content on your topic. Include one photo/image/graphic. A minimum of one outside source should be used for your information; be sure to include the link to the source or the citation. Please submit your factsheet to the assignment Dropbox and also post it to the peer review discussion board.</p> <p>Points to be included in your fact sheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location Number of followers (estimated) Demographics of followers (if available) Core beliefs Practices, holidays, and/or sacred texts Overview of origin/creation story Explain how religious identification intersects or overlaps with racial/ethnic identification Distinguish between historical and modern components of religious practice <p>For free factsheet templates, check out this resource: https://templatelab.com/fact-sheet-templates/#google_vignette</p>
<p>Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of individual and group identity involving race, class, and gender;</p>	<p>Assignment: Journal Reflection This week, we examined the relationship between religion and social class. I asked an AI system to answer the following questions (responses posted separately). After reading through the questions and AI responses, include your own opinion on these topics. What did you find compelling? What did you disagree with or find troubling?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do religions vary in their work ethic? 2. How does the Protestant ethic affect Americans' view of work? 3. How does religion influence beliefs regarding wealth and poverty? <p>Please respond in a minimum of 150 words. If resources outside of this course are used, cite them appropriately.</p> <p>Assignment: Journal Reflection Examine the gender structure of any religion (major/minor/ethnic).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are the gods/deities/spirits represented concerning masculine and feminine traits? 2. Describe any gender/biological sex-specific religious practices, roles, or requirements. 3. From your perspective, how does the religion/church/institution reinforce or dismantle gender roles? <p>Please respond in a minimum of 150 words. Cite at least one (1) source.</p>
<p>Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of individual and group identity involving race, class, and gender;</p>	<p>Assignment: Journal Reflection Examine the gender structure of any religion (major/minor/ethnic).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are the gods/deities/spirits represented concerning masculine and feminine traits? 2. Describe any gender/biological sex-specific religious practices, roles, or requirements. 3. From your perspective, how does the religion/church/institution reinforce or dismantle gender roles? <p>Please respond in a minimum of 150 words. Cite at least one (1) source.</p>

<p>Analyze the role that complex networks of social structures and systems play in the creation and perpetuation of the dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity; and</p>	<p>Assignment #9: Freedom Fact Sheet</p> <p>Create a one-page fact sheet focused on: A Country of Particular Concern identified by the United States Commission on Religious Freedom https://www.uscirf.gov/countries</p> <p>Factsheets are overviews of a topic that highlight key information using concise, simple language. Your fact sheet should have a minimum of 15 facts or bullet points with content on your topic. Include one photo/image/graphic. A minimum of one outside source should be used for your information; be sure to include the link to the source or the citation. Please submit your factsheet to the assignment dropbox and also post it to the peer review discussion board.</p> <p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 data points 1 graphic 1 reference <p>Identify the country</p> <p>Describe those individuals/groups in power</p> <p>Describe how religious freedoms are being threatened or oppressed</p> <p>Assess any policy recommendations or actions being taken</p>
<p>Analyze the role that complex networks of social structures and systems play in the creation and perpetuation of the dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity; and</p>	<p>Discussion Board #7: Proselytization & Power</p> <p>QUESTION</p> <p>After reading Professor Farr's (2010) article, "Proselytizing and Religious Identify Theft," reflect on how power and authority are connected to proselytizing religions. Include at least ONE direct quote from the article in your reflection. Please respond in a minimum of 150 words. Submit 2 peer responses (50 words each) by midnight on Friday.</p> <p>Link: https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/posts/proselytism-and-religious-identity-theft</p> <p>(Note: if sources outside of this Module are used, please cite them appropriately.)</p>
<p>Apply the principles of rights, access, equity, and autonomous participation to past, current, or future social justice action.</p>	<p>DB #8: Social Institutions</p> <p>Pick a legal case from the options below and describe whose rights are at stake. Is equity achievable in these situations? Was social justice action taken before, during, or after the final legal decision? Please respond in a minimum of 150 words. If additional sources are used, please cite them appropriately. Also, if there is a legal case/topic connected to religion that interests you and is not listed below, you are welcome to assess it.</p>

	<p>Family & Marriage Child Marriage: https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/religious-challenges-and-child-marriage</p> <p>LGBTQ Marriage - Miller v. Davis: https://www.npr.org/2022/03/19/1087723875/kim-davis-court-same-sex-marriage</p> <p>LGBTQ Adoption - Fulton v. City of Philadelphia: (Link in Module)</p> <p>Science, Medicine & Health Faith Healing - The Kara Neumann Case: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kara_Neumann_case#</p> <p>Religious Exemptions for Photo Identification: https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R40515.html</p> <p>Education Pledging Allegiance - West Virginia v. Barnette: https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/west-virginia-v.-barnette-the-freedom-to-not-pledge-allegiance</p> <p>Funding Religious Education - Carson v. Makin (Link in Module)</p>
<p>Apply the principles of rights, access, equity, and autonomous participation to past, current, or future social justice action.</p>	<p>Assignment #10: Social Movements Fact Sheet Create a one-page fact sheet focused on: any religious social movement</p> <p>Factsheets are overviews of a topic that highlight key information using concise, simple language. Your fact sheet should have a minimum of 15 facts or bullet points with content on your topic. Include one photo/image/graphic. A minimum of one outside source should be used for your information; be sure to include the link to the source or the citation. Please submit your factsheet to the assignment dropbox and also post it to the peer review discussion board.</p> <p>Summary: 15 data points 1 graphic 1 reference</p>